

A NEW SPECIES OF MELANDRYIDÆ
(COLEOPTERA)

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***Microscapha californica* Barrett, new species**

Body oval, strongly convex, castaneous. Head deflexed, slightly constricted behind eyes; eyes very coarsely granulate, widely separated on the front, slightly emarginate in front and not prolonged over the insertion of the antennæ; maxillary palpi large, four-segmented, last segment strongly dilated and obliquely truncate at tip, longer than wide; antenna eleven-segmented, first two segments equal in length to segments three to seven inclusive, last four segments dilated forming a well-developed club, first two segments thicker than third. Prothorax twice as wide as long, as wide behind as base of elytra, a slight though distinct margin at sides, base sinuate each side; finely, moderately, closely and irregularly punctate. Scutellum invisible. Elytra convex, sides narrowly inflexed, non-striated, finely, moderately, closely and irregularly punctate, with a single seta arising in each puncture. Abdomen with five ventral segments, basal segment subequal to second at middle. Legs moderately robust; anterior coxæ narrowly separated, large and almost oval; middle coxæ small, moderately separated, with the mesosternum between the coxæ cordiform; hind coxæ small and narrowly separated; hind tibia with two spines on distal end one-half to two-thirds as long as first tarsal segment, serrate on under margin, outer spine slightly longer than inner; tarsi 5-5-4, pubescent, first segment of middle tarsi at least as long as the next two combined, first segment hind tarsi as long as the tibia; tarsal claws simple. Length, 2.5 to 3.5 mm.; breadth, 1.25 to 2 mm.

Holotype (No. 2558, Mus. Calif. Acad. Sci.), and ten paratypes taken by myself from nests of the wood rat, *Neotoma fuscipes* Baird, near Pasadena, California, January 1, 1928. A pair of paratypes will also be deposited in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences.

This is a very distinct species and resembles *Microscapha clavicornis* Lec. by having the base of the prothorax sinuate each side of the middle and the last segment of the maxillary palpi oval, obliquely truncate at apex and longer than wide; and *Lederia arctica* (Horn) by color, invisible scutellum and very coarse granular eyes. It is therefore intermediate between the two genera and as these are the characters used for the separation of the two genera *Microscapha* Lec.¹ and *Crioscapha*

¹ Smiths. Misc. Coll., Vol. 6, No. 167, 2nd. ed. 1866, p. 152.

(Horn),² the latter later found to be a synonym of *Lederia* Reitt., I am suppressing the latter and placing the three known American species in the former genus. In Junk's *Coleopterorum Catalogus*³ four other species of *Microscapha* are given while seven species of *Lederia* are listed. I cannot give the status of the South American and Old World species, but as for the species found in the United States *M. californica* definitely unites them into a homogeneous group.

M. californica also differs from *M. clavicornis* in being castaneous throughout, the latter being black with reddish abdomen, and from *M. arctica* by being in general slightly larger.

Key to the known species of American *Microscapha* Lec.

1. Scutellum visible, base of prothorax sinuate each side; mesosternum between the coxæ narrow; last segment of maxillary palpi oval, obliquely truncate, longer than wide, eyes moderately coarsely granulate.....*clavicornis* Lec.
Scutellum invisible 2
2. Base of prothorax sinuate each side; mesosternum between the coxæ cordiform; last segment of maxillary palpi oval, obliquely truncate, longer than wide; eyes very coarsely granulate.....*californica* n. sp.
Base of prothorax regularly arcuate; mesosternum between the coxæ cordiform; last segment of maxillary palpi oval, squarely truncate, about as wide as long; eyes very coarsely granulate*arctica* Horn

THYCE SQUAMICOLLIS Lec.

Within the last few years there have been taken in the Coachella Valley of California quite a number of what I consider to be but a large phase of *Thyce squamicollis* Lec. They differ in the main from typical specimens from New Mexico, by being larger, often with the first or upper tooth of the front tibiæ not compressed, and by having a very minute secondary punctuation between the normal punctures of pronotum, elytra and abdomen, rarely evident in the other. So far, this species has not been taken in Arizona but no doubt will be. It has been considered the outlying member of one of our typical Pacific Coast genera and the finding of the California specimens of this species binds the straggler still closer to the parent stock.—
E. C. Van Dyke.

² Trans. Am. Ent. Soc., Vol. 26, 1893, p. 144.

³ *Coleopterorum Catalogus*, W. Junk, Part 77 by E. Csiki, 1924, p. 20.